

CLAIMS

1. An analytical tool cartridge comprising: a case including a storage space and a retrieval port that communicates the storage space with an external space; and a plurality of analytical tools stored in the storage space in a stacked state;

the analytical tool cartridge further comprising a retrieval mechanism for retrieving the analytical tools one at a time from the case via the retrieval port.

2. The analytical tool cartridge according to claim 1, further comprising an opening/closing mechanism for opening and closing the retrieval port.

3. The analytical tool cartridge according to claim 2, wherein the retrieval mechanism and the opening/closing mechanism are constituted from a single operating body,

the operating body comprising: an engaging projection for integrally moving the analytical tools upon the operating body being moved in a specific direction from a standby state; a closing portion that closes up the retrieval port in the standby state; and an opening portion that opens up the retrieval port upon the operating body being moved in the specific direction from the standby state.

4. The analytical tool cartridge according to claim 3, wherein the case includes an annular wall portion that defines the storage space

and has the retrieval port provided therein,

the operating body being formed in a loop, disposed along an outer surface of the annular wall portion, and movable relative to the annular wall portion.

5. The analytical tool cartridge according to claim 3, wherein the analytical tools each include an engaging portion with which the engaging projection engages.

6. The analytical tool cartridge according to claim 3, wherein the operating body includes an operating portion for applying a load to and thus moving the operating body.

7. The analytical tool cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the storage space has a desiccant housed therein.

8. The analytical tool cartridge according to claim 7, wherein the analytical tools are stored in the storage space in a state supported by a platform,

the desiccant being fixed to the platform.

9. The analytical tool cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the analytical tools are stored in the storage space in a state supported by a platform, and are supported in a state biased by the platform.

10. The analytical tool cartridge according to claim 3, wherein the case is provided with a guiding portion for guiding the operating body when the operating body is moved.

11. The analytical tool cartridge according to claim 1, wherein the storage space has therein stacked on top of the analytical tools an information outputting chip from which can be outputted information relating to properties of the analytical tools.

12. The analytical tool cartridge according to claim 11, wherein the information outputting chip outputs information relating to a calibration curve.

13. A set of an analytical tool cartridge and an analyzer, the set comprising: a case including a storage space and a retrieval port that communicates the storage space with an external space; and a plurality of analytical tools stored in the storage space in a stacked state, the analytical tool cartridge further comprising a retrieval mechanism for retrieving the analytical tools one at a time from the case via the retrieval port,

the analyzer being constituted so as to have installed therein an analytical tool retrieved from the analytical tool cartridge, and analyze a specific component in a specimen liquid supplied onto the analytical tool,

at least one of the analytical tool cartridge and the analyzer being provided with cartridge fixing means for locating and fixing

the analytical tool cartridge onto the analyzer.

14. The set of an analytical tool cartridge and an analyzer according to claim 13, wherein the cartridge fixing means includes first stopper faces for restricting movement of the analytical tool cartridge in a direction orthogonal to each of a direction of stacking of the analytical tools and a direction of insertion of the analytical tools, and second stopper faces for restricting movement of the analytical tool cartridge in the direction of stacking of the analytical tools.

15. The set of an analytical tool cartridge and an analyzer according to claim 14, wherein the first stopper faces are provided on the analyzer, the second stopper faces being provided on the analytical tool cartridge.

16. The set of an analytical tool cartridge and an analyzer according to claim 15, wherein the cartridge fixing means is constituted from notches provided in the case, and recessed portions provided in the analyzer.

17. A set of an analytical tool cartridge and an analyzer, the analytical tool cartridge comprising: a case including a storage space and a retrieval port that communicates the storage space with an external space; and a plurality of analytical tools stored in the storage space in a stacked state, the analytical tool cartridge

further comprising a retrieval mechanism for retrieving the analytical tools one at a time from the case via the retrieval port,

the analyzer being constituted so as to install an analytical tool retrieved from the analytical tool cartridge, and to analyze a specific component in a specimen liquid supplied onto the analytical tool,

the analyzer including an inserting portion into which an end portion of the analytical tool is inserted, the analytical tool cartridge and the inserting portion being provided with analytical tool fixing means for fixing the analytical tool in the analyzer.

18. The set of an analytical tool cartridge and an analyzer according to claim 17, wherein the analytical tool fixing means comprises a projection provided on one of the analytical tool and the inserting portion, and a recess provided in the other thereof for engaging with the projection.